INSTRUCTOR:
Les Christie

TEXTBOOKS (Required):
Les Christie's Outline of the Gospel of John, 2009. Available in WJU book store. This outline can also be obtained on line for free.

TEXTBOOKS (Recommended):

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will introduce the student to some of the background, critical, and content issues of the gospel of John. The major emphasis will be on the content of John's gospel, taking into consideration various historical interpretations. The course will include lecture, discussion and video. Comparisons of John's account of events to the reports of the other Gospel writers will be made wherever appropriate. In keeping with our college's multi cultural focus, attention will be given to how the words of Jesus and the theology of John relate to individuals in multi cultural settings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1) The student will be able to explain John's unique perspective of the events in Jesus life and ministry.
2) The student will be able to compare and contrast John's account of some of these events with those of the other gospel writers.
3) The student will be able to describe how Jesus' teachings as recounted in John should impact the lives of Christians today.
4) The student will feel confident in preaching through the Gospel of John.
5) The student will be able to write the main purpose of the Gospel of John and explain how each chapter fits into that main purpose.
6) The student will be able to list, explain, and make informed choices regarding the introductory and background issues surrounding the Gospel of John.
7) The student will be able to identify major themes through John's Gospel and how they relate to the gospel of Jesus.
8) The student will be able to list and explain several interpretations of specific passages in John's gospel.
9) The student will be able to describe various disciples' (especially the author's) relationship with Jesus as recorded in this gospel.
10) The student will be able to produce several key lists from John's gospel, e.g. the
"I am" statements, and the seven signs.

11) The student will identify key statements in John’s gospel which refer to Jesus as God and the issues surrounding the debate over Jesus’ deity.

12) The student will research and write a theme paper revealing his or her understanding of one of John’s major themes.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **Reading**
   
a) Read the entire Gospel of John, preferably in one or two sessions.
   
b) The recommended textbook may be read concurrently with our classroom study. The book is in standard commentary form, so the student could be covering the same material in the Bible and in the textbook at the same time.

2. **Exams and Assignments**
   
   - Sheets regarding the theme of John 200 *(Wednesday, Sept. 9)*
   - Mid-Term Exam 200 *(Wednesday, October 5)*
   - Research paper 300 *(Wednesday, October 21)*
   - Final Exam 300 *(Monday, November 11)*

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Attendance:** Class sessions are important for fulfilling the objectives of this course. Attendance is expected at all class sessions. A student who misses 20% of class sessions will be dropped one full grade. There are no differences between excused and unexcused absences, with the exception of a death in the family. It is in the best interest of the student to attend class faithfully. If the student has an emergency that precludes them from attending class it is the responsibility of the student to get notes from that class from a classmate. It is recommended that students get contact information of dependable and thorough classmates that can give them the notes of the class they missed. If a student is unexpectedly and without notice unable to attend class the student must leave an e-mail or voice mail with their professor prior to the end of that class time. A professor has the right at some point to fail a student for excessive absences.

Student athletes must provide professors a copy of their season schedule at the beginning of the semester listing the dates of their upcoming absences for games. Student athletes will be allowed to miss class sessions for games plus an additional 15% of remaining class sessions before their final grade drops one full grade.

It is expected that students will arrive on time and continue until the end. To
ensure this, three late entrances and/or leaving early will be considered as one complete absence.

No extra credit work will be given to make up for absences.

**Late Assignments:** Assignments will drop two full grades if turned in within one week of due date. Exams must be taken at the assigned time unless previous arrangements are made, available only for *extreme* circumstances.

**Cell phones/Pagers/Beepers:**
It is the professor’s expectation that each and every student, including myself, will take into consideration respect for the learning environment by turning off all devices with noise and the capability to interfere with the learning environment.

**Laptops:**
The use of laptops is for educational purposes only, therefore a laptop may be banned, by the professor, from the class for the remainder of the semester if it is used inappropriately (example: e-mail, games, internet surfing, other course work).

**Grading Policy:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90%-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80%-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70%-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60%-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
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**Individual Discussions:** Les Christie is available by calling 916-577-2268 to arrange an appointment to discuss any issues in the class. He mainly available Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm, but may arrange occasional times outside these hours. If you are having difficulty understanding any assignments, lecture topics, or want further information, please do not hesitate to call or arrange an appointment during the class.

**WJU Integrity Policy:** WJU considers its students to be responsible, Christian adults and prefers to treat them as such. A major part of an education at a Christian college is developing and maintaining Christian character, specifically integrity. One jeopardizes that integrity by participating in any kind of deceit; WJU regards such acts as willful plagiarism, cheating, and misrepresentation as deceitful. A student discovered in this kind of activity will not only lose the trust the college has invested in him or her, but will also be subject to discipline: no credit for any assignments willfully misrepresented by plagiarism or cheating and a personal interview by the Academic Committee to determine if the student may remain in the class or in school.
Sheets Regarding “The Theme of John” paper. Answer the questions on the hand out. Do you think the main theme of John is found in John 20:30-31?

- If you do type a “Yes” next to this question.
- If you do not then type the reference from John that you feel best describes the theme of John most clearly.
- Then summarize or paraphrase in your own words either John 20:30-31 or the passage you have selected as the theme of John.
- Then type one or two carefully worded sentences showing how each chapter fits into the main theme of the Gospel of John (in other words, you would read each chapter in John and then type in your own words one or two sentences that show how this chapter fits into the selected theme of the Gospel of John) This is due, **Wednesday, September 9**

Research Paper: Type a double spaced paper of at least 2,500 words (Approximately eight pages). Use 12pt Arial type front. The margins on each page should be 1” on all sides. Start the first page 1’ from the top. Have a cover page. This will be a standard A, B, C, D, F graded assignment.

OR, the student may complete a project (art work, video, power point presentation etc.) with the professor's approval. This will be a Pass/Fail graded assignment.

The paper or project is due, **Wednesday, October 21**. The topic of the paper will be on one of the following topics:

a) John uses the term "Life" about 42 times in this gospel. Trace how he uses the term "Life" in the most important of these passages and make some conclusions about what he meant by the term. Use careful analysis of the terms which go with Life, e.g. eternal, everlasting, and abundant.

b) Trace the theme of the Messiah (the Christ) in the Gospel of John. Show what points John is making about the Messiah to the readers of his gospel and why this is important to the readers. Is the idea of Messiah important to readers of John today? Why or why not?

c) Trace references in John to the Divinity of Jesus. Does Jesus make claims to be God? Does John in what he writes about Jesus indicate that Jesus is God? Discuss the relevant passages and the issues which relate tot this debate today.

d) Study the "I am" Statements in John’s gospel. Find the meaning in each of the "I am" statements, but use your results to put together an "I am" theology. Do they have an overall significance or a way in which they fit together? The key issues here are the theology and meaning of the "I am" statements, not a verse by verse exegesis of these passages. Why does
Jesus use the "I am" statements? What function do they play in John's purpose?


f) If you select one of the above listed topics you do not need to let Dr. Les Christie know. However, if you select another topic based on a major theme of John's gospel you must make sure it is acceptable with Dr. Les Christie by **Wednesday, September 23.**

**Notes on Writing Research Papers:**
- Be sure to stay closely to the topic issues. Answer the questions directly at some point in your paper.

- Use the Gospel of John itself as your primary resource, but read from and cite at least six other major reference works (commentaries, theology references, Bible dictionaries, etc.). Do not write a theology of your subject from the whole Bible or New Testament. We are studying the Gospel of John, so look at it as if it is the only biblical document you have.

- Make sure that the work is your own and not copied from a book, internet, magazine or from another person. Original, careful thought will be one of the most important criteria for grading this paper.

- A bibliography of all material you read should also be attached as the last page of your paper. Be sure to **underline** or **italicize** the titles.

- Your research paper will be graded according to:
  - Your study and understanding of the subject
  - Your original and critical thinking
  - How you wrestled and struggled with the text
  - Using your own words (not those in the books)
  - How closely you stayed on the topic or issue
  - How you incorporated other sources
  - Neatness, presentation, writing style, grammar, punctuation, spelling

- I do not want to see:
  - Long quotes from commentaries
  - Long scripture passages from the Gospel of John quoted
  - Long personal stories (but I do want you to apply the topic to your life)

- Put your name and student mailbox number on **all papers.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, August 26</td>
<td>Class (Introduction / chapter 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, August 31</td>
<td>Class (chapter 1-2)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, September 2</td>
<td>Class (chapters 2-3)</td>
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<td>Monday, September 7</td>
<td>No School (Labor Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 9</td>
<td>Class (Theme of John / chapters 3-4)</td>
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<td>Monday, September 14</td>
<td>Class (chapters 4-5)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, September 16</td>
<td>Class (chapters 5-6)</td>
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<td>Monday, September 21</td>
<td>Class (chapters 6-7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 23</td>
<td>Class (chapters 8-9)</td>
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<td>Monday, September 28</td>
<td>No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 30</td>
<td>Class (chapter 10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 5</td>
<td>Class (Mid-term exam)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, October 7</td>
<td>No Class</td>
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<td>Monday, October 12</td>
<td>Class (chapter 11)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, October 14</td>
<td>Class (chapter 12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 19</td>
<td>Class (chapter 13)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 21</td>
<td>Class (Research paper / chapter 14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 26</td>
<td>Class (chapters 15-16)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 28</td>
<td>Class (chapters 17-18)</td>
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<td>Monday, November 2</td>
<td>No Class</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 4</td>
<td>Class (chapters 19-20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, November 9</td>
<td>Class (chapter 21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 11</td>
<td>Class (Final exam)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
BIBLIOGRAPHY:


Koester, Craig R. _Symbolism In The Fourth Gospel._


Do you think the main theme of John is found in John 20:31-31? (If you do type a “Yes” next to this question).

If you do not then type the scripture reference in the space below from John that you feel best describes the theme of John most clearly.

Then **summarize or paraphrase in your own words** either John 20:30-31 or the scripture reference you have selected as the theme of John.

Then type **one or two carefully worded sentences** showing how each chapter fits into the main theme you have selected for the Gospel of John.
  - In other words, you should read each chapter in John and then type **in your own words** one or two sentences that show how this chapter fits into your selected theme for the Gospel of John.

**Chapter**
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